

Application No.: 09/714658

Case No.: 53786US012

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A foam article comprising a polymer foam, said polymer foam having at least one of its major surfaces smooth to an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry, said polymer foam being smooth without being bonded to an additional layer,
said polymer foam comprising a homogeneous distribution of a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres,
wherein said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres are at least partially expanded.
2. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam has a center and a uniform size distribution of said at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of said polymer foam.
3. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres are at least mostly expanded.
4. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam has a pattern embossed on at least one major surface of said polymer foam.
5. (Original) The foam article according to claim 4, wherein said pattern is a microreplicated pattern and said polymer foam is not significantly crushed.
6. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam is substantially free of broken polymeric microspheres.

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7. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article is a pressure sensitive adhesive article or a heat-activated adhesive article.
8. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam is an adhesive.
9. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein the foam article is one from the group consisting of gaskets, gap-sealing articles, vibration damping articles, tape backings, retroreflective sheet backings, anti-fatigue mats, abrasive article backings, raised pavement marker adhesive pads, medical dressings, and sealant articles.
10. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam is stretched in at least one direction.
11. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 10, wherein said polymer foam has a matrix and contains microvoids between said matrix and said expandable microspheres.
12. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam is crosslinked.
13. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article comprises at least one other polymer composition in the form of at least one discrete structure bonded to or embedded in said foam.
14. (Original) The foam article according to claim 13, wherein said at least one discrete structure is a plurality of discrete structures, and said polymer foam comprises an adhesive composition.

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15. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, further comprising a first substrate, wherein said polymer foam is on a major surface of said substrate and said foam article is a multi-layer article.
16. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 15, further comprising a second substrate having a major surface, wherein said polymer foam is sandwiched between said first and second substrates.
17. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of tackifiers, plasticizers, pigments, dyes, solid fillers, non-expandable microspheres, blowing agents and combinations thereof.
18. (Original) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam comprises an acrylic foam.
19. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam comprises a matrix comprising a blend of two or more polymers wherein at least one of said polymers in said blend comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer and at least one of said polymers is selected from the group consisting of unsaturated thermoplastic elastomers, acrylate monomer-insoluble saturated thermoplastic elastomers, and non-pressure sensitive adhesive thermoplastic polymers.
20. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article comprises a polymer composition bonded to said polymer foam.
21. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article comprises a plurality of polymer compositions bonded to said polymer foam.
22. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said article comprises an adhesive composition bonded to at least one major surface of said polymer foam.

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23. - 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam comprises a polymer matrix comprising a blend of two or more polymers wherein at least one of said polymers in said blend comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer and at least one of said polymers is an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer.

51. - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein the polymer foam is capable of stretch activated release.

57. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 1, further comprising at least one layer comprising a polymer composition, said layer bonded to said polymer foam.

58. (Previously presented) The foam article according to claim 57, wherein the polymer composition comprises an acrylic polymer.

59. - 61. (Canceled)

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With this response, an earnest effort has been made to respond to all issues raised in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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